

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 03056 01 OF 02 142101Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 /043 W
-----020312 142111Z /63
R 141955Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7121
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 3056

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, BR
SUBJ: LOCATION OF AIFLD OFFICE IN BRAZIL

REFS: (A) BRASILIA 1528, B) BRASILIA 1604, C) STATE 22285

SUMMARY: AIFLD'S LEASE ON ITS PRESENT OFFICE SPACE IN RIO DE JANEIRO EXPIRED ON JANUARY 31, 1978; THE LANDLORD STATED AT THAT TIME, AND HAS SINCE REPEATED, THAT HE WISHED TO SUBSTANTIALLY RAISE THE RENT AND THAT AIFLD WOULD EITHER HAVE TO SIGN A NEW LEASE AT THE HIGHER RENTAL RATE OR VACATE THE OFFICES BY THE END OF NEXT MONTH (MAY 1978). AIFLD HAS DECIDED THAT, WHATEVER ULTIMATE DECISION IS MADE REGARDING THE CONTINUATION OF ITS PROGRAM IN BRAZIL (REFTELS), IT DOES NOT WISH TO RENEW ITS LEASE AT THE HIGHER RATE BUT INSTEAD TO SEEK SMALLER, MORE ECONOMICAL QUARTERS. THE QUESTION ARISES, HOWEVER, WHETHER THESE QUARTERS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE LOCATED IN RIO OR SHIFTED TO SAO PAULO. THE EMBASSY HAS IN THE PAST CONSIDERED THAT AIFLD MIGHT TRANSFER ITS BRAZIL OFFICE TO SAO PAULO IN ORDER TO BE CLOSER TO THE SAO PAULO-LOCATED/AIFLD-SUPPORTED LABOR CULTURAL INSTITUTE (ICT), AND IN RECOGNITION OF

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 03056 01 OF 02 142101Z

THE IMPORTANCE AND INCREASING ACTIVITY OF SOME SAO PAULO UNIONS. SINCE SUCH MOVE WAS ORIGINALLY DISCUSSED, HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY'S LABOR ATTACHE POSITION WAS TRANSFERRED FROM RIO TO SAO PAULO WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW LABATT IN JANUARY 1978. THIS SHIFT GENERATED SIGNIFICANT COMMENT IN BRAZILIAN LABOR CIRCLES, AND WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE

PREFERABLE FOR AIFLD TO CINTINUE TO BE LOCATED IN RIO DE JANEIRO FOR THE TIME BEING. WVE MAKE THIS RECOMMENDATION AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE TIME CONSTRAINTS--AIFLD MUST SOON BEGIN LOOKING FOR NEW OFFICE SPACE AND NEEDS TO KNOW WHETHER TO LOOK IN RIO OR SAO PAULO--AND WITH THE RESERVATION THAT, AS IN REFS A (TENTATIVE APPROVAL OF RENEWAL OF AIFLD CONTRACT) AND B (APPROVAL OF NEW AIFLD COUNTRY PROGRAM DIRECTOR SOMOGYI), IT BE CONTINGENT UPON FINAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY AMBASSADOR SAYRE FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL IN BRAZIL.
END SUMMARY

2. THE EMBASSY HAS FOR SOME TIME CONSIDERED THE DESIRABILITY THAT AIFLD MOVE ITS BRAZIL OFFICE FROM RIO DE JANEIRO TO SAO PAULO, PRIMARILY SO AS TO PLACE THE AIFLD OFFICE IN IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY TO THE AIFLD-SPONSORED LABOR CULTURAL INSTITUTE (ICT), AND FACILITATE GREATER CONTACT WITH INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT AND VOCAL SAO PAULO UNIONS, PARTICULARLY THE METALLURGICAL WORKERS, WITH WHOM AIFLD HAD MAINTAINED ONLY LIMITED CONTACT IN THE PAST. FOR SIMILAR REASONS, THE EMBASSY'S LABOR ATTACHE POSITION WAS SHIFTED FROM RIO TO SAO PAULO WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW LABATT IN JANUARY 1978. AIFLD HAS INDICATED THAT IT IS PREPARED TO TRANSFER ITS OFFICE FROM RIO TO SAO PAULO IF THE EMBASSY SO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BRASIL 03056 01 OF 02 142101Z

RECOMMENDS AND DESPITE ITS OWN MISGIVINGS ABOUT SUCH A MOVE, BUT THAT IT IS PLANNING IN ANY CASE TO VACATE ITS PRESENT OFFICE SPACE IN RIO AND MOVE TO SMALLER, MORE ECONOMICAL QUARTERS AT THE END OF MAY 1978, WHEN THE "GRACE PERIOD" ON THE CURRENT QUARTERS EXPIRES.

3. THE JANUARY MOVE OF LABATT POSITION FROM RIO TO SAO PAULO STIMULATED CONSIDERABLE COMMENT IN RIO LABOR UNION CIRCLES, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE EMBASSY WAS DOWNPLAYING RIO UNIONS IN FAVOR OF THE ACTIVIST STANCE EXPOUSED BY SOME OF THE MORE VOCAL PAULISTA UNIONS. THE REGIONAL LABOR DELEGATE FOR RIO, DR. LUIS CARLOS DE BRITO, RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE AIFLD MOVE FROM RIO TO SAO PAULO WITH LABATT AND RECOMMENDED STRONGLY AGAINST IT. (FYI: RIO'S A-29 OF APRIL 22, 1977, QUOTES LABOR MINISTER'S RIO-BASED CHIEF OF CABINET, DR. PAULO SANTOS, TO THE EFFECT THAT AIFLD IS PERMITTED TO HAVE A PROGRAM IN BRAZIL ONLY WITH SPECIFIC APPROVAL OF BRAZILIAN NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, AND THAT ITS POSITION AS THE ONLY FOREIGN ORGANIZATION PERMITTED TO CARRY OUT LABOR TRAINING

IN BRAZIL IS DUE LARGELY TO THE CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP
MAINTAINED BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, THE
EMBASSY AND CONGEN RIO. END FYI)

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 03056 02 OF 02 142103Z
ACTION ARA-14

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AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 BRASILIA 3056

4. ALTHOUGH AIFLD'S MAJOR PROGRAM RESOURCE IN
BRAZIL (THE LABOR CULTURAL INSTITUTE, OR ICT) IS
LOCATED IN SAO PAULO, IT DOES NOT REQUIRE THE AIFLD
COUNTRY PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S PHYSICAL PRESENCE THERE
FOR DAY-TO-DAY SUPERVISION; SUCH A PRESENCE AND
SUPERVISION MIGHT WELL, IN FACT, UNDERLINE THE ICT'S
NON-BRAZILIAN TIES. MOREOVER, THE PRESENCE OF THE
LABATT IN SAO PAULO ASSURES READY ACCESS TO THE ICT
SHOULD THE NEED ARISE. AS FOR THE PROXIMITY TO THE
VOCAL PAULISTA UNIONS WHICH WOULD BE OFFERED BY
LOCATING THE AIFLD OFFICE IN SAO PAULO, WE NOTE AGAIN
THAT RELOCATION OF LABATT IN SAO PAULO HAS LESSENED
THE NECESSITY AND PERHAPS DESIRABILITY OF
AIFLD'S MAINTAINING SUCH CONTACTS ON A FREQUENT
BASIS. THERE ARE STILL SEVENTEEN NATIONAL
FEDERATIONS AND ONE NATIONAL CONFEDERATION
(MARITIME WORKERS) WITH HEADQUARTERS IN RIO,
PLUS SOME EIGHT HUNDRED LOCAL UNIONS IN THE
RIO AREA; HAVING THE AIFLD OFFICE IN RIO WOULD
NOT ONLY MAINTAIN THESE CONTACTS NOW THAT LABATT
HAS MOVED TO SAO PAULO, BUT IN OPINION ON CONGEN
RIO WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE LABATT'S
EFFECTIVENESS ON HIS PERIODIC VISITS TO RIO AND
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 03056 02 OF 02 142103Z

VACILLATE CONGEN'S EFFORTS TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH
RIO LABOR CIRCLES IN SUPPORT OF LABOR OFFICER.

5. CONCLUSION: BASED ON THESE CONSIDERATIONS, WE
BELIEVE AT THIS TIME THAT TO MOVE AIFLD OFFICE
FROM RIO TO SAO PAULO COULD HAVE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE
RESULTS. COMING SO SOON AFTER THE SHIFT OF LABATT,
SUCH A MOVE WOULD SERVE TO CONFIRM IN BRAZILIAN EYES
US INTEREST IN IDENTIFYING WITH THE MORE AGGRESSIVE
AND CONTROVERSIAL PAULISTA UNIONS AT THE EXPENSE OF
OUR LONG-STANDING CONTACTS IN THE RIO AREA. THERE
ALSO EXISTS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE MOVE COULD AROUSE
STRONG OPPOSITION FROM THE COB AT A TIME WHEN IT IS
SERIOUSLY INVOLVED IN EXAMINING THE ROLE OF FOREIGN
ORGANIZATIONS IN BRAZIL (E.G., THE PEACE CORPS
INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION, SUMMER INSTITUTE OF
LINGUISTICS). ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, HAVING THE
LABATT IN SAO PAULO AND AIFLD CPD IN RIO--WITH
BOTH MAKING REGULAR TRIPS TO THE OTHER AREA--
WOULD BE THE BEST MANNER OF UTILIZING LIMITED
RESOURCES IN MAINTAINING CONTACTS WITH THE BROADEST
RANGE OF BRAZILIAN LABOR CIRCLES; WITHIN THIS
CONTEXT, LABATT WOULD ENCOURAGE AIFLD TO EXPAND
AND FURTHER DEVELOP ITS CONTACTS WITH THE SAO PAULO
UNIONS. THUS WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT--IN VIEW OF
THE NECESSITY OF AIFLD'S VACATING ITS PRESENT OFFICE
SPACE IN RIO AND OBTAINING A LEASE ON A NEW LOCATION,
AND WITH THE RESERVATIONS CONCERNING FINAL APPROVAL
BY AMBASSADOR SAYRE AS EXPRESSED IN PARA ONE AND
REFS A AND B--AIFLD PLAN TO MAINTAIN ITS BRAZIL
OFFICE IN RIO FOR THE TIME BEING AND SEARCH FOR NEW
OFFICE SPACE THERE.

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PAGE 03 BRASIL 03056 02 OF 02 142103Z

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Message Attributes

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